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Chairman: Mr. Yousfi ..... (Algeria)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Review of logical frameworks for special political missions for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2007 (A/61/890, A/61/894 and A/61/919)

1. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the review of logical frameworks for special political missions for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2007 (A/61/890), said that the report had been prepared pursuant to section VII, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 61/252, in which the Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to review the logical frameworks for all special political missions in order to ensure that their programmatic aspects and resource requirements were consistent with mandates of the Assembly and the Security Council and to report to it no later than the early part of the second part of its resumed sixty-first session.

2. During the review, all special political missions had been considered, taking into account the provisions of section VII of resolution 61/252. As a result, it had been determined that the logical frameworks of all but three special political missions were in full compliance with the relevant provisions of the resolution and that their programmatic aspects and resource requirements were consistent with the mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

3. Consequently, section II of the report contained the revised logical framework for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), as well as two additional outputs for the logical frameworks for the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS).

4. **The Chairman** drew attention to a letter dated 3 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/894).

5. **Mr. Saha** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee, in its related report (A/61/919) noted that the Secretary-General indicated in his report that the logical frameworks of all but three of the special political missions were in full compliance with the relevant provisions of the resolution and that their programmatic aspects and resource requirements were consistent with the mandates of the Security Council and the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee also noted that adjustments had been made to the logical framework for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) and that two outputs had been added to the logical frameworks for BONUCA and UNOGBIS. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the Secretary-General's report.

6. The Advisory Committee had received an amended version of the report (A/61/890*) after its own report had been issued (A/61/919). Therefore, the content of document A/61/890*, dated 30 May 2007, could be transmitted to the General Assembly.

7. **Mr. Hussain** (Pakistan) said that special political missions were anomalous structures that represented a hybrid between political missions and peacekeeping missions. Defining them was therefore difficult. Moreover, translating Security Council and General Assembly mandates into outputs and achievements in the context of results-based budgeting was an area in which there was room for improvement. Given the status of implementation of results-based budgeting in the Organization and the serious questions raised in that regard by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), there was good reason not to endorse the conclusion that virtually every aspect of every mandate was fully satisfactory. While his delegation had no objections to the three logical frameworks mentioned in the report, other special political missions — such as the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) — required considerable work. The Committee needed to look at their mandates and outputs and adjust the resources required accordingly.

8. Thus, while the general framework for special political missions was acceptable to his delegation, there were still specific cases where adjustments were required. His delegation would find it difficult to endorse the Secretary-General's report as it currently

stood, but was more supportive of the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should take note of it.

9. **Mr. Ramadan** (Lebanon) recalled that, in its resolution 60/255 of May 2006, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to submit his future budget proposals for all special political missions in full compliance with its resolution 55/231 on results-based budgeting, in order to take into account the concerns of one delegation.

10. At the main part of the sixty-first session, the Secretary-General had submitted a report entitled "Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council: Thematic cluster I. Special and personal envoys, special advisers and personal representatives of the Secretary-General" (A/61/525/Add.1), in line with the General Assembly's request. At that time, all members of the Committee — except that same delegation — had been of the view that the logical frameworks provided by the Secretary-General for the various special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council were in line with their respective mandates.

11. In its resolution 61/252 of December 2006, the General Assembly — again, to accommodate the concerns of the same delegation — had requested the Secretary-General to review the logical frameworks for all special political missions in order to ensure that their programmatic aspects and resource requirements were consistent with mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and to report thereon to the Assembly no later than the early part of the second part of its resumed sixty-first session.

12. Currently before the Committee was the report of the Secretary-General on the review of logical frameworks for special political missions for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2007. The Lebanese delegation had taken note of the Secretary-General's original report, dated 2 May 2007, and of his view that minor adjustments needed to be made to the logical frameworks for three special political missions: BONUCA, UNOGBIS and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004). His delegation had also noted the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should take note of the Secretary-General's report.

13. His delegation had observed that the Secretary-General's report of 2 May 2007 had been revised and reissued on 30 May 2007 (A/61/890*), in response to a request by the same delegation. While Lebanon had serious reservations as to how the issue had been handled, it hoped that the delegation in question would now be able to join the consensus on the issue.

14. Lebanon continuously strove to strengthen its already strong relations with the Syrian Arab Republic, which it considered to be a friendly and brotherly country. For that reason alone, the Lebanese people — represented unanimously by their political groups in the National Dialogue held one year earlier — had called for the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic and the resolution of all pending issues between the two brotherly countries, including the delineation of their common borders.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.